

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - June 5, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Vincent Sennen Garcia, (also known as “Sunny” Garcia), a professional surfer during the years 1996 through 2001, pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego to a felony count of making false statements on a federal tax return, in violation of 26 United States Code, Section 7206(1). Garcia entered his guilty plea before United States Magistrate Judge William McCurine, Jr., subject to final acceptance of the plea by United States District Court Judge Thomas J. Whelan, at the time of sentencing.

According to court papers, Garcia received income from various sources, including prize money from surfing competitions. As part of his guilty plea, Garcia admitted that in October 2001 he knowingly and willfully filed a U.S. Individual Tax Return that failed to report approximately \$161,450 in cash and traveler’s checks he received in the year 2000 as prize money from professional surfing competitions at locations around the world, including Fiji, Australia, South Africa, France, Spain, Portugal and Brazil. Garcia also

admitted that, in federal tax returns he filed for the years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2001, he intentionally failed to report another \$255,635 in prize money.

Garcia is scheduled to appear for final acceptance of plea and sentencing before Judge Whelan on August 28, 2006, at 9:00 a.m.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 06-CR-1160-W

Vincent Sennen “Sunny” Garcia

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1) - False Statements on Tax Return

Maximum penalties: 3 years in prison; a \$100,000 fine; and one year of supervised release.

PARTICIPATING AGENCY

Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation